

CLAIMS

1. A machine for the preparation of beverages of the type comprising at least one dispensing unit housed in the inside of an envelope, said dispensing unit comprising at least one removable collecting device whose access is through at least one access window obtained in the envelope, and at least one removable covering element to occlude or selectively free said access window, characterized in that the access window faces the collecting device, and that said at least one covering element and said at least one access window comprise sliding guide means that are complementary to each other.
5. 2. A machine according to claim 1, wherein said at least one removable covering element and said at least one access window comprise locking means for holding said covering element in the occluding position of said access window.
10. 3. A machine according to claim 2, wherein said locking means are elastic snap-locking means.
15. 4. A machine according to claim 1, wherein said at least one removable covering element comprises at least one substantially flat first wall portion, said at least one substantially flat first wall portion being parallel to the vertical axis of said collecting device when said covering element is slidably engaged in said access window.
20. 5. A machine according to claim 4, wherein said sliding guide means consist of at least a couple of grooves obtained on the opposite sides of said at least one first wall portion.
25. 6. A machine according to claim 1, wherein said at least one covering element comprises a second wall portion substantially perpendicular to a first wall portion.
30. 7. A machine according to claim 6, wherein said at least one covering element further comprises at least one tubular portion having a through-hole whose axis is perpendicular to said at least one second wall portion and suitable to house in its inside at least part of the beverage dispensing duct of

said collecting device.

8. A machine according to claim 1, wherein said collecting device is removably mounted in said dispensing unit by means of a bayonet-coupling, and wherein said collecting device comprises at least one protruding handling portion, to facilitate the positioning and the removal of said collecting device with respect to said dispensing unit.
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9. A machine according to claim 8, wherein said at least one covering element comprises guide means that loosely engage said at least one protruding handling portion when said collecting device is correctly mounted.
10. 10. A machine according to claim 1, wherein said sliding guide means complementary to each other are oriented according to a sliding direction substantially parallel to the axis of said collecting device.
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